

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3466

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1161

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW UNOFFICIAL ART SCENE

REF: MOSCOW 527

1. UNOFFICIAL ARTIST IOSIF KIBLITSKIY HAS BROUGHT US UP TO DATE ON EVENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNOFFICIAL LENINGRAD ART EXHIBIT (REFTEL). PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS JANUARY 14 WAS BADLY ATTENDED (KIBLITSKIY NOTED THAT SAKHAROV PRESS CONFERENCE THAT DAY DREW FAR BIGGER CROWD) BUT ENABLED RABIN AND CO. TO GET THEIR MESSAGE TO THE WESTERN MEDIA. RABIN, HIS SON AND KIBLITSKIY WERE SCHEDULED TO GO TO LENINGRAD ON THE TRAIN, EVENING OF JAN. 16 TO BE PRESENT AT OPENING OF EXHIBIT ON THE 18TH. OSKAR RABIN WAS PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST ON THE 16TH AND NEVER EVEN GOT TO THE RAILROAD STATION. KIBLITSKIY AND TWO ARTISTS MANAGED TO ELUDE THE POLICE AT THE RR STATION AND GOT ON THE TRAIN, ALTHOUGH TWO OTHER ARTISTS WERE NOT ALLOWED ON BOARD. KIBLITSKIY AND HIS FRIENDS WERE INTERCEPTED AND DETAINED BY THE POLICE ON ARRIVAL AT LENINGRAD, INTERROGATED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, AND PUT ON A TRAIN BACK TO MOSCOW. THEY WERE TOLD BY A "FAIRLY SENIOR" POLICEMAN THAT THEY WERE NOT TO COME TO LENINGRAD FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND THAT IF THEY TRIED, THEY WOULD BE ARRESTED.

2. KIBLITSKIY DISCOVERED ON HIS RETURN TO MOSCOW THAT HIS
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TELEPHONE (AND THAT OF RABIN) HAD BEEN CUT OFF. KIBLITSKIY GATHERS THAT IT WILL BE RECONNECTED AT END OF JANUARY. RABIN'S HOUSE ARREST ENDED AFTER THREE DAYS.

3. WHILE DEPRESSED AT THE FACT THAT RABIN AND CO. WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE OPENING OF THE LENINGRAD EXHIBIT, KIBLITSKIY SAID THAT THEY WERE ALL PLEASED THAT EXHIBIT HAD NEVERTHELESS TAKEN

PLACE, AND HAD OPENED ON THE SAME DAY AS THE EXHIBIT OF UNOFFICIAL SOVIET ART (THE GLEZER EXHIBIT) IN THE TATE GALLERY, LONDON. HE SAID THAT HE AND RABIN DID NOT YET HAVE ANY IDEA ABOUT WHAT NEXT STEPS TO TAKE. THEY THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THE LENINGRAD EXHIBIT MIGHT NOW BE THE CAUSE OF THE PAINTING SECTION OF THE MOSCOW GRAPHIC ARTS UNION DECIDING FINALLY TO HOLD THE EXHIBIT FOR THE LOCAL UNOFFICIAL AND SEMI-OFFICIAL ARTISTS. IT WOULD BE IRONIC, KIBLITSKIY CONCLUDED, IF THIS EXHIBIT WERE TO TAKE PLACE THANKS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF RABIN AND CO., PARTICULARLY IF THE LATTER WERE NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE. THE EXHIBIT IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN JANUARY 25 AT THE GRAPHIC ARTS UNION EXHIBIT HALL.
TOON

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